

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON TIDAL FINFISHERIES



MINUTES OF APRIL 19, 2017

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ADVISORY COUNCIL

Dewayne Fox, Ph.D., Chair
Bernard "Bernie" Pankowski
Brian Hoeffcker
James "Jay" Little
Marvin Kahl, Jr.
P. "Wes" Townsend
Joseph Smith

DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE

John Clark
David Saveikis, Director
Acting Chief Nick Couch
Leslie Reese

PUBLIC

7 Visitors

Agenda Item 1. Welcome

Chairman Dewayne Fox called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and welcomed everyone.

Agenda Item 2. Approval of 1/18/17 Meeting Minutes

The January meeting minutes were approved without objection.

Agenda Item 3. Meeting Schedule – Dewayne Fox,

Chairman, proposed that a new meeting schedule be implemented. The Advisory Council will meet quarterly on the third Wednesday in January, April, September and November, with additional meetings scheduled as needed. This meets the criteria for frequency as dictated in State Code. New schedule implemented immediately.

Agenda Item 4. Revocation of recreational fishing licenses for repeat offenders – David Saveikis, Director of Fish & Wildlife,

explained the conditions that may lead to the revocation of a recreational fishing license. There is an automatic mandatory revocation for a lack of child support payments. A fishing license may also be revoked for one year or less under either of the following conditions: a violation of any fishing law or a violation for defacing or removing any "No Trespassing" or "No Fishing" signs.

Agenda Item 5. Regulatory Update – John Clark,

Fisheries Administrator, stated that, effective April 1st, an emergency order was issued by the Secretary requiring a 17" minimum size limit and four fish possession limit for Summer Flounder. The emergency order is being promulgated as a regulation. The public hearing for this regulation is scheduled for June 29, 2017.

Agenda Item 6. Mid Atlantic Fisheries Management Council (MAFMC) February Meeting Summary – John Clark,

Fisheries Administrator shared details from the February meeting on behalf of Stew Michels. The MAFMC wants to expand electronic reporting. The Shad and River Herring Committee met and reviewed the assessment terms of reference and statement of work. The Butterfish and Golden Tilefish stocks have been rebuilt; they are not overfished nor is overfishing occurring.

Agenda Item 7. Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) update – John Clark, Fisheries

Administrator, summarized the 2017 Winter Meeting. The Tautog Board discussed regional management using four management regions. Maryland, Delaware and Virginia are discussing uniform regulations, but it may be difficult as each state currently has different sizes and seasons. Draft Tautog Amendment I will be voted on in May and then open for public comment if approved. The American Eel Board reviewed the 2017 Stock Assessment Update, which is unlikely to lead to management changes. The Shad and River Herring Board approved the Sustainable Fishery Management Plan for the Delaware, which will allow Delaware's commercial shad fishery to continue operations. The Atlantic Menhaden Board reviewed public comment on the Public Information Document for Amendment III. The Draft Amendment will have Reference Point Options that include Ecological Reference Points. The Summer Flounder, Black Sea Bass and Scup Board is awaiting final approval of the 2017 recreational Summer Flounder management measures. While the Black Sea Bass stock assessment has resulted in 53% increase in the 2017 coastwide quota, the final 2016 MRIP estimates are so high that the 2017 recreational fishery may need to take measures to reduce harvest. The Striped Bass Board initiated development of Draft Addendum V to Amendment VI to consider a ~10% liberalization of coastwide commercial and recreational regulations. The South Atlantic Board accepted the Red Drum benchmark stock assessment. The stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring. There will most likely not be any changes to the Red Drum FMP.

Agenda Item 8. Sheephead Regulations – John Clark,

Fisheries Administrator, reported his findings regarding stock management in other states at the request of the Council. There is currently no Regional Management Plan in place. States polled provided the following information: North Carolina: 10 fish/person/day with a 10" minimum. Virginia: 4 fish/person/day with no minimum size limit. Maryland: 20 fish/person/day with no minimum size limit

Agenda Item 9. Commercial Fisheries Reporting – John Clark, Fisheries Administrator indicated that compliance could be better and pointed out that accurate, timely reports are critical for fisheries management and stock assessment. Suggestions for how to improve compliance in reporting would be welcome.

Agenda Item 10. Director's Update – David Saveikis, Director of Fish & Wildlife, indicated that the Advisory Council on Tidal Finfisheries Annual Report was submitted to the General Assembly in January. There are no anticipated Fisheries initiatives expected in this session of the General Assembly. Dedication of our new Aquatic Resource Education Center is scheduled for April 24 @ 2PM.

Suggested Agenda Items for Next Meeting

1. Artificial Reef Update – Jeff Tinsman
2. Oyster farming update as it relates to recreational fishing access
3. ASMFC Spring & Summer meeting update
4. MAFMC April, June, and August Meeting Update
5. MRIP Update – Garry Glanden

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Leslie Reese
Recording Secretary

